

mineral lease or agreement that affects individually owned Indian land on behalf of an Indian owner if—

(A) that owner is deceased and the heirs to, or devisees of, the interest of the deceased owner have not been determined; or

(B) the heirs or devisees referred to in subparagraph (A) have been determined, but 1 or more of the heirs or devisees cannot be located.

(4) PUBLIC AUCTION OR ADVERTISED SALE NOT REQUIRED.—It shall not be a requirement for the approval or execution of a lease or agreement under this subsection that the lease or agreement be offered for sale through a public auction or advertised sale.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This Act supersedes the Act of March 3, 1909 (35 Stat. 783, chapter 263; 25 U.S.C. 396) only to the extent provided in subsection (a).

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 482 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4101.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4101) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, with Mr. LAHOOD in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, June 23, 1998, amendment No. 2 offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) had been disposed of and section 738 had been read.

Are there further amendments to this portion of the bill?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MILLER OF FLORIDA

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. MILLER of Florida:

Add after the final section the following new section:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make available or administer, or to pay the salaries of personnel of the Department of Agriculture who make available or administer, a loan to a processor of sugarcane or sugar beets during fiscal year 1999 under section 156 of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7272) at a loan rate in excess of 17 cents per pound for raw cane sugar and 21.9 cents per pound for refined beet sugar.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the Committee of Tuesday, June 23, 1998, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) will control 30 minutes, and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) or her designee each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. This amendment is a modest change in the sugar program in this country, a one-cent change in sugar prices in this country.

Most of my colleagues do not realize that the sugar program is one of those old-fashioned programs where the Federal Government here in Washington has the bureaucracy that set a high price on sugar. This is not part of the free enterprise system that most people think we have. We have a price of sugar that the government sets that is over twice what the price is around the world. In Canada the price of sugar is about 9 cents a pound. In the United States it is about 22, 23 cents a pound. This makes zero economic sense.

In 1996 we passed Freedom to Farm, a very significant and historic piece of legislation for agriculture, because it really had a lot of reforms that were very important and good for this country and good for farmers. Our farmers are very effective and productive farmers around the world. We are huge exporters of agricultural products. But while we reformed lots of the grain programs and other programs, we did not reform sugar. Sugar was one product that basically escaped reform in the 1996 farm reform bill. The price of sugar back before we had reform was about 22, 23 cents a pound, and it is staying at that price because the government program continues to exist to force the price up high while world prices have dropped down to about 9 cents a pound.

One of the things I would point out, I remember reading right after the passage of the Freedom to Farm bill what the historic change was. In Time magazine there was an article not focusing on the good things in that bill but about the sugar sweet deal that the sugar farmers got by not reforming sugar and whether it was ABC News who did a story earlier this year about "It's Your Money", or Readers Digest had a story earlier this year, or the New York Times, they all referred to the fact that sugar was not reformed. So as much as my opponents might

say, "Oh, we reformed it," the bottom line is sugar prices are the same basically as they were before we reformed it.

Let me describe briefly how the program works. The program works, that we cannot grow enough sugar in this country so we must import sugar. So what the government does is it controls the amount of sugar allowed into this country and by basic supply and demand forces prices up high. So while the world price is about 9 cents right now, in fact, if you look at the Wall Street Journal, you look at commodity prices, you have two prices for sugar, the price we pay in the United States and the price around the world.

What is crazy about this, for example, Australia, one of the largest exporters of sugar in the world, and it is not a subsidized program in Australia, they will sell their sugar to anyone for 9 cents a pound, but the United States, what do they sell it to us for? Twenty-two cents a pound or so. It is crazy. That is foreign aid. That is corporate subsidy of Australian sugar farmers. Whether we import it from the Dominican Republic or Brazil or wherever, we are subsidizing foreign sugar growers in this program.

This program of sugar that we have in this country is bad for consumers, it is bad for jobs, and it is certainly bad for the environment. For the consumers, they pay a higher price for sugar, not just the sugar we buy off the shelves in the store but so many different items of food contain sugar, whether it is the candy, whether it is cough drops, whether it is ice cream or baked goods, sugar is part of that and it is part of the total cost of the production. We all know basic economics will tell you that cost and prices are related.

It is bad for the environment. I come from Florida. A great treasure of the State of Florida is the Florida Everglades. Sadly it has been damaged over the past 50 years for a variety of reasons, not just because of agriculture certainly. We are in the process now of trying to restore the Everglades. We have lost 50 percent of the Florida Everglades for a variety of reasons, for agriculture and development and more people in the State of Florida. But we found out this week that it is going to cost us \$7.5 billion over the next 20 years to restore the Everglades as best as we can. A large part of the problem is the amount of acreage going for sugar production, 500,000 acres. And part of the solution is to buy a lot of that sugar land and also to build retention ponds to filter the water that flows off the sugar fields. How much is sugar paying in this plan? Less than 5 percent of the cost. They are not even carrying their full load. But in addition to that, because we have this crazy sugar program, we are having to pay inflated prices for the land we are buying from the sugar farmers. We create a program that makes the land more valuable and creates incentives to